

I am an actress who has also had a career as a classical music discjockey. I sometimes do promos or commercials for radio and TV, and have appeared in a TV series, as well as in TV specials. I listen to two radio stations that are here in New York City. One is a classical music station. There used to be two classical stations here and I preferred the other one, but the FCC allowed it to be bought by a corporation that programmed it with hard rock music, a type of music I intensely dislike. The other station I listen to is a PBS station, which has a mix of classical music and informative talk shows. These two stations are very important to me. I listen everyday. They have local news and information about local events that are taking place.

I don't think that "market forces" are in play with regard to the airwaves. The fact is that the FCC has allowed corporations to rule free airwaves. Clear Channel, for instance, has put many local stations out of business and the people affected are unhappy with not being able to get local news or have disc jockeys who respond to them locally. There is no sense of community from these Clear Channel stations, and they do not respond to any local community. I think that the FCC should stop allowing corporations to own so many stations. There should be a very small limit on how many stations one business or corporation can own. That's the way to insure that local programming exists. The FCC should make it possible for there to be more independent stations. Clear Channel has a monopoly in some markets and should be broken up with the anti-monopoly laws. Clear Channel endangers whole communities by not being local. People need to be able to tune in to hear about local traffic and fires and weather conditions as well as hear about events in their community. Clear Channel's only motive is profit, not service. Free Airwaves are for service first, not profit alone. Most independent stations only break even providing the essential service they do.

Local programming should include a reference to the owner. Local programming is both programmed by the people in the local station and locally owned. This means that there must be people employed in the local stations doing the programming. One of the things that corporate ownership of the airwaves does is deny employment to locals. Local stations should have as many employees as it takes to air shows with real people on the air, and to program each hour from that station. That's what local programming means. All programming decisions should be made at the local level, because that is the level at which the listeners can make their preferences known.

Local programming can be anything that a local station deems local. One station may have a avid listenership for classical music, which will be mostly records and CD's. Another may concentrate on local events and news with a mix of music from both local musicians and taped or recorded material. No one should tell a local station what they have to play. Any local station should decide what local programming is because they will be responding to the people who listen to them. It's interactive and shouldn't be handed down from on high.

Anything that helps a community and is responsive to the community that the local station resides in could be considered local programming.

No one should be making money by being paid to play or not play anything. That should be illegal. Disc jockeys should play what they think is good and what their listeners want, and they should be fined and jailed if they take

money for favoring something. Music companies and managers should not be in the mix at all. Payment for announcements is heinous.

An artist's free concert should not be considered payola.

Voicetracking is NOT a reasonable practice. It is inconsistent with a broadcaster's obligation to serve the public and local interest. Voicetracking was developed by corporations to increase profit and for no other reason. Corporations or big businesses have no desire to really serve the community, only to make a profit. Free airwaves are meant to serve a community, not make corporations rich. It is a gross misrepresentation to broadcast something and to deliberately mislead the listeners about the location of the broadcaster. One of the main things that is wrong with voice tracking is that local employees are fired or dismissed in favor of this distant technology. People are necessary for local operation and for service to a community to be successful.

Competition is not the point. Competition is about the bottom line and making profit and giving corporate officers more money. The airwaves are not supposed to be for sale like that. Competition and service are mutually exclusive. Live on-air talent is the very thing that is needed for local programming and for stations to be responsive to local communities.

The FCC should outlaw voicetracking, and should enforce mandatory live on-air talent in local stations.

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As for low-wattage stations, I think this is a ploy to give away the real free airwaves to corporations. You can't get much range with 100 watts. Stop focusing on this, and correct the problem with the real radio stations.

I would like to thank the FCC for looking into this. One of the terrible things happening in our country is that the sense of personal connection to our government is being lost, along with the feeling that the government is not responsive to citizens who speak up. I hope that the FCC will actually read and take to heart the comments and feelings of the people who respond. And even more, I hope that the FCC will correct the mistake of allowing the airwaves to be bought and used by corporations.